

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

The applicant wishes to replace the informal drawings with new enclosed formal drawings.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 10 and 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated in light of U.S. Patent no. 6,085,368 to Robert et al.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 18 to 25 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert et al in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,809,591 to Capaldi et al.

Independent claims 1, 18, 22 and 24 describe a person handling system, claim 5 a winch assembly, and claim 15 a carriage assembly, respectively comprising, inter alia, a carriage component(s), an electric motor element(s), and a clutch coupling element(s), said clutch coupling element(s)

...being configured for coupling and de-coupling said electric motor element and carriage component such that

when said electric motor element and said carriage component are coupled and said electric motor element is energised said carriage component may be *urged along said track by said electric motor element* and

when said electric motor element and said carriage component are de-coupled said carriage component may be *manually displaced along said track*.

Claim 20 has an analogous displacement component characterization.

In other words the subject matter of the claims of the present application relate to a combination of elements providing for the displacement of a carriage along a track, the combination of elements comprising **a carriage**, a motor and a carriage-motor interconnection clutch.

The applicant submits that Robert et al does not teach, suggest nor provide any incentive for the subject matter as described in the claims 1 to 10, 15 and 17.

The applicant submits that Robert et al relates to a combination of elements providing for the rotational displacement of a reel component for winding up or paying out an elongated element, the combination of elements comprising **a reel component**, a motor and a reel-motor interconnection clutch (please see, for example, column 1 line 28 to line 65; column 2 line 4 to 1; as well as figures 1, 6 and 12 (e.g. elements 7, 10, 27 and 33) and column 5 line 65 to column 6 line 8).

Accordingly, as mentioned above, the applicant submits that the Robert et al reference **does not** teach, suggest nor provide any incentive, **whatsoever**, for the exploitation of the subject matter of claims 1 to 10, 15 and 17; claims 1 to 10, 15 and 17 therefor relate to subject matter which is patentably distinct therefrom.

Furthermore, in light the of the above comments, the applicant submits that **even** if the Robert et al reference and the Capaldi reference are read together, the subject matter of claims 18 to 25 is patentably distinct therefrom.

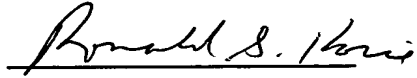
If any further extension of time is necessary, the United States Patent and Trademark Office us hereby petitioned for such an extension and may charge any necessary fees to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

If any further fee, **whatsoever**, with respect to the present application is due, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is in any event hereby authorized to charge such further amount to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

In light of the foregoing amendments and comments, favourable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl. Confirmation receipt card
New formal drawings 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4 to 10, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 10e, 11,
11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 12 to 15, 15a, 15b, 16, 16a, 17a, 17b, 17c, 18, 19a, 19b, 19c
and 19d.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the present *informal* drawing pages containing figures 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4 to 10, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 10e, 11, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 12 to 15, 15a, 15b, 16, 16a, 17a, 17b, 17c, 18, 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d and insert in place thereof the new **formal** drawing pages submitted herewith containing figures 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4 to 10, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 10e, 11, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 12 to 15, 15a, 15b, 16, 16a, 17a, 17b, 17c, 18, 19a, 19b, 19c and 19d.